

Again, never having studied scientific ornithology, and having no time at present if I had the wish to do so, and, moreover, having an intense love of live birds, and an almost Buddhistic horror of having them killed, I must admit to feeling the least bit out of my element among those who—to put it mildly—feel otherwise. Let those who will spend their days killing, dissecting and classifying; I choose rather to give my time to the study of life, and to doing my small best toward preserving the tribes of the air from the utter extinction with which they are threatened.

And lastly, a confession: I should take pleasure in “sharing my discoveries” were I so happy as to make any; but to me everything is a discovery; each bird, on first sight, is a new creation; his manners and habits are a *révélation*, as fresh and as interesting to me as though they had never been observed before. How am I to tell what is an old story and what a new one? What to announce in a scientific journal, and what to proclaim with delight to my fellow ignoramuses?

I could study; I could learn? Doubtless; but that would take the enthusiasm out of my work. Could I enjoy and sympathize with the raptures of a little pair in feathers, if my mind was filled with doubts and queries as to their proper niche in the world of classification?—if I concerned myself about the number of their tail feathers, the exact shade of their plumage, or whether they were a species or a subspecies, and entitled to two or three Latin names?

No—forever no! Study these things who will. I study the beautiful, the living, the individual bird, and to my scientific confreres I leave his skin, his bones, and his place in the Temple of Fame.

OLIVE THORNE MILLER.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1893.

NOTES AND NEWS.

CHARLES SLOVER ALLEN, M. D., an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in New York City on October 15, 1893, after a brief illness. Dr. Allen was born at New Bern, North Carolina, in 1855. After graduating with honors from Columbia College, New York City, he studied medicine under Dr. James B. Wood and obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine from Bellevue Hospital. As the result of a competitive examination, in which he took the highest rank, he was appointed interne in the Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island. At the completion of his term of service in this institution, he went abroad and continued his studies at Heidelberg.

On returning to New York City he was associated with Dr. James B. Wood and later established an office of his own at 21 East 28th Street, which he occupied at the time of his death. In the treatment of throat, nose, and ear affections Dr. Allen was notably skilful and he held the position of clinical lecturer on the diseases of these organs in the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York.

Dr. Allen was born a naturalist and only the duties of an unusually busy professional life prevented him from taking high rank as an original investigator in some branch of natural history. As a naturalist his tastes were of the broadest. Every object in nature had for him a fascination which impelled him to study the animate or inanimate with equal ardor.

His more recent natural history work had been largely confined to investigations of the toxic power of snake venom with the particular object of discovering an antidote for this virile poison, but he never lost interest in his study of birds and their habits, and to the readers of 'The Auk' he will best be known by his admirable articles on the Fish Hawk and Black Duck (Auk, IX, pp. 313-321, and X, pp. 53-59). His notebooks were filled with equally interesting material which it is to be regretted will now never see the light.

Dr. Allen was a rarely genial comrade. In the field no misfortune was great enough to dampen his enthusiasm, and his generous disposition always prompted him to sacrifice himself for the good of his companions. Indeed his presence on an expedition was an assurance that it would be both a pleasant and successful one.

THE A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection made, through its Chairman, Mr. George B. Sennett, its usual report at the Eleventh Congress and asked to be discharged, the need for such a Committee being considered no longer urgent, of late its function having been mainly advisory and its services not often required. As most of the States have now enacted excellent statutes for the protection of birds, modelled to a large extent upon suggestions advanced by the Committee, little more than their proper enforcement is now necessary. In recognition of its important services to the cause it was designed to aid, during a continuous service of ten years, the Union acceded to its request, accompanying its discharge with a vote of thanks. Later, in view of certain contingencies it was thought might arise, however, it was deemed desirable to have the Union represented officially by a committee that could act in its behalf, and a new 'Committee on Protection of North American Birds' was appointed, as follows: Frank M. Chapman (Chairman), Charles E. Bendire, Montague Chamberlain, Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and L. S. Foster.

AT THE Eleventh Congress of the A. O. U. the Union authorized the preparation of a new 'Check-List of North American Birds,' the original edition having been for several years out of print. The purpose of the

new edition is to duly incorporate with the original edition the numerous additions and nomenclatural modifications contained in the six 'Supplements' that have appeared since the publication of the original edition, and to revise and give more in detail the 'habitats' of the species and subspecies, rendered possible through our greatly increased knowledge of the geographical distribution of our birds during the ten years that will have elapsed between the publication of the two editions. For this purpose it was thought desirable to place the work as nearly as possible in the hands of the original 'Committee on the Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds,' which was accordingly reappointed, with a single substitution, as follows: Elliott Coues (Chairman), J. A. Allen, William Brewster, C. Hart Merriam, and Robert Ridgway; Dr. Merriam thus taking the place of Mr. Henshaw, in view of the probable inability of the latter to serve, owing to prolonged absence in the West. It is not expected that the new edition will be ready for the press till early in 1895.

OWING to the pressure of other engagements, Mr. Charles F. Batchelder declined reappointment as Associate Editor of 'The Auk,' and the place was filled by the selection of Mr. Frank M. Chapman. Mr. Batchelder had filled the position so efficiently for a period of six years that his declination was accepted with sincere regret, not only by the Editor-in-Chief, but by all the members of the Council, with whom rests the selection of the Editorial Staff, his attention to all the details of publication having been unremitting and most satisfactory.

WE HAVE received a prospectus of 'A Monograph of the Coraciidæ, or Family of the Rollers.' The work will be published by the author, Mr. Henry E. Dresser, author of 'The Birds of Europe,' 'A Monograph of the Meropidæ,' etc., in an edition limited to 250 copies. The size will be imperial quarto, and the work will give "as complete an account as possible of all the known species of these richly colored birds." The plates have been drawn by Mr. J. G. Keulemans, and will be hand-colored. Intending subscribers may address the author, Topclyffe Grange, Farnborough, Kent, England.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES has recently published in its 'Transactions' the report of the Audubon Monument Committee, appointed in October, 1887, to secure funds for the erection of a monument over the grave of the distinguished ornithologist John James Audubon. The report (Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci., Vol. XIII, pp. 23-65, Nov. 1893) contains, besides an account of the proceedings of the Committee (pp. 23-30), and as accompanying documents, the addresses in full made at the unveiling of the Monument, April 26, 1893. These were by Prof. Thomas Egleston, Chairman of the Committee, in behalf of the Academy presenting the monument to the Corporation of Trinity Church (pp. 30-36), and the reply of the Rev. Morgan Dix, D. D., accepting the monu-

ment in behalf of Trinity Church (pp. 37, 38); also the proceedings of the special meeting of the Academy held at the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of the same day. These include a brief address by President Morris K. Jesup of the Museum; the reading of some extracts from unpublished letters of Audubon by President H. Carington Bolton of the Academy; a short address by Prof. Egleston, and a memorial address on 'The Life and Services of John James Audubon' by Mr. Daniel G. Elliot (pp. 43-57),—a well-delivered and very just tribute to the memory of the great painter-naturalist. Following the address is a list of the contributors to the monument fund, several hundred in number. The proceedings will be separately issued for distribution to the contributors to the fund.

'THE NIDIOLOGIST,' an illustrated monthly magazine devoted to ornithology, is published and edited by Mr. Henry Reed Taylor, at Alameda, Cal. It is one of the youngest of the numerous aspirants to fame in the field of ornithology, the fourth number bearing the date of December, 1893. The matter and the photo-engravings with which it is liberally illustrated are of good quality, and, trusting it will maintain its present high standard as a popular magazine of ornithology, we give it a hearty welcome and wish it the success it thus far so well deserves. Among its contributors we notice the names of a number of well-known ornithologists.

THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB was organized at San José, Cal., June 22, 1893, which "all honest ornithologists in California are invited to join." A report of the regular monthly meeting held Nov. 4 last, by the Secretary, Mr. C. Barlow, of Santa Clara, Cal., occupies nearly two pages of the December number of 'The Nidiologist,' from which it appears that several papers of much interest were presented, and quite a list of papers is announced for the meeting of December 2. Such an organization cannot fail of affording great benefit to its members and of promoting the study of Californian ornithology.

THE CONGRESS ON ORNITHOLOGY, held in Chicago, under the auspices of the World's Congress Auxiliary, Oct. 18-21, 1893 (see *Auk*, X, pp. 386, 387), proved a very gratifying success, considering the short time allowed for its organization and development, the interest shown and the size of the audiences in attendance more than exceeding the expectation of the promoters of the enterprise. The program contained a list of some thirty papers, the general character of which is shown by the following titles of some of the papers presented. Opening address by the Chairman, Dr. Elliott Coues; The Migration of Birds, J. A. Allen; The Ornithology of Columbus's First Voyage, Frank M. Chapman; On the Destruction of Birds, Dr. D. Webster Prentiss; The Red-shouldered Hawk in Captivity, Harry C. Oberholser; The Effect of the Introduction of the Mongoose on

the Fauna of Jamaica, W. L., W. E. D. Scott; Birds of British Guiana, J. J. Quelch; Ornithology in Our Schools, Abraham H. Bates; Kinship of Birds as shown by their Eggs, J. N. Baskett; Bird Observations, or When, Where and How to see Our Birds, O. B. Warren; Instinct in Birds, J. H. Bowles; Changes of Habits in Certain Species of Maine Birds, Manly Hardy; Slaughter of the Innocents, Leander S. Keyser; Some Recent Economic and Scientific Questions in Ornithology, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt; The Range of the Crossbills (*Loxia*) in the Ohio Valley, Amos W. Butler; To the Rescue of the Birds, Hortensia M. Black; Some Notes on the Herons of Central Florida, T. Gilbert Pierson; Popular Names of Birds, William E. Praeger. The success of the Congress was largely due to the efforts of Dr. Coues and Prof. S. A. Forbes, and especially to the efficient and untiring assiduity of the acting Secretary, Mrs. E. Irene Rood of Chicago. The papers, as may be inferred from their titles, were properly of a popular character and well adapted to stimulate interest in ornithology and in the better protection of bird life.

MR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, will return to the Island of Trinidad about the end of January to resume his study of the Fauna of the Island, especially its mammal and bird life. The results of his last year's work on the mammals have been published (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., V, pp. 203-224), and a very extended report on the birds is ready for the press, and will probably be issued in February of the present year.

AMONG the courses of popular lectures given free to the public at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City is a course on 'Birds of the Vicinity of New York City,' by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, Assistant Curator in the Department of Ornithology. The lectures of this course will be given on Saturday afternoons in January, 1894, and will be followed by other courses in February, March, and April by other Curators or their assistants, on Mineralogy, Mammalian Palæontology, and Entomology, in each case the lectures being illustrated by specimens from the collections to which they relate. The experiment of giving popular lectures to people earnestly in search of natural history information was first tried last year, and the success attending last year's courses shows that the efforts of the Museum authorities to popularize natural history are well appreciated. The ornithological course will comprise four lectures, as follows: I, Why we Study Birds, How to Study Birds, Our Winter Birds. II, The Birds of March, April and May, and the Spring Migration. III, The Birds of Summer, Birds' Nests, Birds' Songs. IV, The Birds of Fall and the Fall Migration, Birds in their Winter Homes.